

NONFICTION – THIRD PLACE

“Ocean’s Call”

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I still remember the salty spray of the ocean on my face. We were jumping... one, two, three... faster now. Over the rocks we flew, from one onto another, farther out into the ocean’s grasp. It was beautiful. I had never seen anything like it in my entire life. The sun behind us, the ocean in front, the rocks below... four, five, six... don’t stop now.

Laura was there with me; we were there together. In the midst of Ireland and all of its beauty surrounding us; it was hard to take it all in. The rocks were a blur beneath our feet; it felt as if we were on nothing but air... seven, eight, nine... almost there. Closer into the ocean, farther out to sea, and the joy of our hearts was on our faces. For the first time, I felt alive; the wind was in my hair and laughter was in my eyes.

I heard Laura call to me, but I couldn’t respond. It seemed as if time had slowed just for us, just for me... ten, eleven, twelve... only a bit more. The ocean was so bright, it hurt our eyes to look upon it for more than a moment, but we didn’t mind, we hardly noticed. I could feel the ocean beckoning, calling to me... urging me to come and join her, telling me that I was apart of her and she apart of me.

The spray sent chills down my spine. Laura was ahead of me now, but I didn’t mind; I liked being alone... thirteen, fourteen, fifteen... faster now. I jumped another rock and after that another, all along with a faint smile on my face. The thoughts that normally clouded my mind were gone. It was me and the sea now, nothing could take that away.

Suddenly, Laura called once more and the sea’s spell seemed to lessen. I slipped only once; I looked down to see my foot was bare and numb to the bone. I hadn’t realized how cold it was. I picked up my shoe and continued on... sixteen, seventeen, eighteen... so close. I fixed my mind on the sea once more, determined not to break the bond this time.

At last we were there, standing on the edge of it all. I held my breath. The sea was before us in all of its magnificent beauty. The dazzling blue astounded me; the waves were breaking at our feet. It was the most glorious sight I had ever seen. Laura also seemed entranced by the sight. I knew that we both realized then, that no one had ever truly witnessed what we had just then... the ocean was apart of us, and we apart of her. I smiled and whispered into the cold air.

We had done it.